

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 PARIS 33900 01 OF 02 161345Z

46

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04

ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01

AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 OIC-02 /133 W

----- 118684

R 161334Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7163

INFO USDEL MTN GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 33900

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MTN, FR

SUBJ: AMB WALKER REFLECTIONS ON FRENCH ATTITUDES

TOWARD MTN

REF: GENEVA 8966

1. AMBASSADOR WALKER'S VERY ACCURATE AND PERCEPTIVE ACCOUNT IN REFTEL OF HIS MOST RECENT DISCUSSIONS IN PARIS WITH FRENCH TRADE OFFICIALS DESERVES, WE THINK, SOME ADDITIONAL COMMENT FROM THE EMBASSY PARIS PERSPECTIVE.

2. "VAST CHASM" DIVIDING U.S. AND FRENCH TRADE POLICY ATTITUDES. THE TRADITIONAL STRONG FRENCH PREFERENCE FOR A PLANNED ECONOMY AND THE EQUALLY STRONG U.S. PREFERENCE FOR A FREE MARKET FREQUENTLY RESULT IN ALMOST DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSITE APPROACHES TO A NEGOTIATION SUCH AS THE CURRENT MTN IN GENEVA. WE DO NOT FIND IT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PARIS 33900 01 OF 02 161345Z

DISCOURAGING, OR EVEN SURPRISING, THAT FRENCH MOTIVES AND EXPECTATIONS HAVE A DIFFERENT BASE THAN OURS.

INDEED, THE FRENCH INTEREST IN A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION TO THE MTN IN 1977, WHATEVER ITS MOTIVATION, STRIKES US AS AN ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENT. CONVERGING ON THIS COMMON GOAL FROM OPPOSITE EXTREMES MIGHT, IN THE NORMAL NEGOTIATING COURSE OF EVENTS, BE EXPECTED TO BRING US CLOSER TOGETHER. THERE CERTAINLY WILL BE DIFFERENCES, ESPECIALLY IN AGRICULTURE, JUST AS THERE HAVE BEEN MANY IN RECENT TIMES, BUT WITH THE SKILLFUL AND PERSISTENT EFFORTS OF OUR NEGOTIATORS IN GENEVA THERE HAS BEEN CONTINUED MOVEMENT TOWARD OUR OBJECTIVES. THE FACT REMAINS -- WHICH WE HAVE ALWAYS RECOGNIZED -- THAT TO BRING THE MTN TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION WILL ULTIMATELY REQUIRE SOME BASIC POLITICAL DECISIONS BY OUR LEADERS.

3. FRENCH SUSPICION AND MISTRUST. AMBASSADOR WALKER WAS ABLE TO CONFIRM ON HIS MOST RECENT VISIT WHAT WE HAVE BEEN CONSISTENTLY REPORTING ALMOST AD NAUSEAM -- THAT FRENCH SUSPICIONS OF U.S. PROTECTIONISM RUN DEEP. FORTUNATELY, THE USG TRACK RECORD UNDER THE TRADE ACT OF 1974 AFFORDS A SPLENDID BASIS FOR ARGUING OUR DEVOTION TO A LIBERAL TRADE REGIME. IT SOMETIMES SEEMS, HOWEVER, THAT JUST WHEN WE THINK WE HAVE ALMOST CONVINCED THEM THAT OUR HEARTS ARE TRULY LIBERAL, ALONG COMES THE THREAT OF AN ACTION (NEED WE EVEN MENTION COGNAC) OR THE ALLEGATION OF A STATEMENT BY A SENIOR USG OFFICIAL (SUCH AS THE MISLEADING ACCOUNTS OF REMARKS ABOUT OUR DETERMINATION TO UNDO THE CAP) AND WE ARE BACK AT SQUARE ONE. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THE FRENCH ARE SINCERELY INTERESTED IN THE REDUCTION OF TARIFFS AND IN THE ELIMINATION OF NON-TARIFF BARRIERS.

4. INADEQUATE PREPARATION. WE CERTAINLY AGREE THAT AT LEAST SOME OF THE PERFORMANCES TO WHICH AMBASSADOR WALKER WAS EXPOSED DURING HIS MOST RECENT VISIT GAVE NO COMFORT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 PARIS 33900 02 OF 02 161343Z

46

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04

ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01

AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 OIC-02 /133 W

----- 118690

R 161334Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7164

INFO USDEL MTN GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 33900

CONCERNING THE PERFORMERS' READINESS TO APPRECIATE OR EVEN UNDERSTAND SOME OF THE FINER POINTS WHICH MUST BE APPRECIATED AND UNDERSTOOD IN THE MTN. WE HAVE NO RPT NO DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOF AND ITS MINISTRIES ARE WELL STAFFED WITH EXPERTS HAVING A GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT THE MTN ARE ALL ABOUT, DESPITE THE ALMOST INEXPLICABLE FAILURE OF THEIR SENIORS TO REVEAL THAT.

5. NEGOTIATING PARTNER. WHILE FRENCH ATTITUDES ARE OF COURSE OF CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE IN THE MTN, WE FEEL CONSTRAINED TO OBSERVE THAT IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS THE EC AND NOT THE GOF IS AT THE NEGOTIATING TABLE.

6. CONCLUSION. WE COME DOWN AT NO GREAT DISTANCE FROM AMBASSADOR WALKER, IN THAT WE ASSUME THAT THE FRENCH WILL CONTINUE TO BE SUSPICIOUS OF U.S. MOTIVES, JUST AS WE ARE SUSPICIOUS OF THEIRS; THAT THEY MAY MARCH TO A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PARIS 33900 02 OF 02 161343Z

DIFFERENT DRUM THAN OURS, BUT NONETHELESS DO WANT TO BRING ABOUT A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE MTN IN 1977; THAT WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO PERSIST, WHILE RESISTING THE IDEA OF A SMALL PACKAGE; THAT MINISTERIAL LEVEL CONTACTS WILL CONTINUE TO BE DESIRABLE -- THOUGH A MORE INTENSIVE CULTIVATION OF THE WORKING LEVEL OFFICIALDOM WILL CONTINUE TO BE IN ORDER; AND THAT ULTIMATELY POLITICAL LEADERS WILL HAVE TO MAKE SOME BASIC DECISIONS TO INSURE THE SUCCESS OF THE MTN -- WHICH IN FRANCE, SURELY MEANS DECISIONS BY PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING AND PRIME MINISTER RAYMOND BARRE.
RUSH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, TRADE, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PARIS33900
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760427-0369
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761144/aaaablxy.tel
Line Count: 168
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 GENEVA 8966
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 APR 2004 by hartledg>; APPROVED <28 JUL 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMB WALKER REFLECTIONS ON FRENCH ATTITUDES TOWARD MTN
TAGS: ETRD, US, FR, MTN, (WALKER, WILLIAM N)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006